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COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF
DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN
Fifteenth session
15 January-2 February 1996

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE ELIMINATION OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN ON ITS FIFTEENTH SESSION

Draft report

Rapporteur: Ms. Hanna Beate SCHÖPP-SCHILLING (Germany)

Addendum

VII. RESULTS OF THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

1. The Committee exchanged views on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Committee's role in monitoring the implementation of the Platform for Action was discussed, taking into account paragraphs 322 to 325 of the Platform for Action, 1/ in which the Committee was invited to take into account the Platform, within its mandate, when considering the reports submitted by States parties. In the Platform, States parties were invited to include information on measures taken to implement the Platform when reporting on the implementation of the Convention.

2. One expert suggested revising the Committee's guidelines for the preparation of reports of States parties, requesting States parties to indicate measures taken to implement the Platform as well as their additional commitments made in Beijing.

3. To assist the Committee, it was suggested that an analysis of the links between the Platform for Action and the Convention be made by the Secretariat, including an analysis of aspects of the Platform that needed to be looked at from a legal perspective.

4. It was noted that the Committee should avoid a decision that would require countries to prepare written supplements to reports that had already been

submitted. It was proposed to ask States parties to include in their reports submitted beginning September 1996 information on the implementation of the Platform for Action and of their additional commitments. Oral statements should, however, be made in other cases to address the measures taken to implement the Platform for Action and any additional commitments made at the Fourth World Conference on Women and to explain the reservations made, if any.

5. It was noted that the Commission on the Status of Women had the primary mandate for monitoring the implementation of the Platform for Action. A distinction therefore needed to be made between the monitoring to be carried out by the Commission and that to be undertaken by the Committee on the basis of their different composition, mandates and methods of working, as well as their different outreach to countries and the international community.

6. It was also suggested that the Chairperson of the Committee contact the official designated by the Secretary-General to serve as an adviser on gender issues to discuss the Committee's role in the follow-up to the Beijing Conference.

7. It was further suggested that the Committee might wish to review its earlier general recommendations in the light of the Platform for Action, which might serve as a yardstick. The recommendation on violence against women was cited as an example. Others questioned the validity of the Committee using the Platform for Action as a yardstick, noting that it was a politically negotiated document that had achieved consensus; the Committee, however, was free to go beyond it in examining reports on the basis of the Convention. Previous documents that had gone further than the Platform for Action and were in some cases even more progressive than the Platform could also be used by the Committee in formulating its recommendations.

Notes

1/ See Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995 (A/CONF.177/20 and Add.1), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.